

GAME OF THE WEEK
BOAR PEN
 GIRLS' BASKETBALL VS. SUFFIELD
 3 P.M. ON SATURDAY @ WJAC

SPORTS

The Choate News

SPORTS QUOTE OF THE WEEK
 "I thought lacrosse was what you find in la church."
 - Robin Williams

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016

50 SHADES OF GOLD: THE CRH COLOR DILEMMA

By **Jackson Elkins '18**
 Staff Reporter

Ever since the new, simpler shield became the Choate Rosemary Hall seal, Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis and the Communications team have been on a quest to ensure that all the parts of the school are coordinated and unified as a brand. Most recently, per the school's request, both the boys' and girls' hockey teams switched the color of their jerseys from the more shiny "Vegas gold" to the softer yellow "Michigan gold."

This change follows one that occurred a few years ago, when the school made the switch from an orange-yellow similar to Michigan gold to Vegas gold. Because of these color changes, the school may have created problems for itself, as many players and coaches are unable to decide what color they should use. Teams often buy the wrong color of gear, such as the hockey team buying Vegas gold gloves before they knew about the jersey change.

The switch to Michigan gold has also affected other teams. Boys' Varsity Basketball received new practice jerseys in the new color.

However, the reactions to these new jerseys have been mixed. Sophomore Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18 said that, while the new practice jerseys are great, "I like the Vegas gold that we have on our game uniforms better. The jerseys themselves may not be as nice as a new set would be, but I think they look better with the old gold."

I'm a big fan of the new yellow color on the hockey jerseys.

Ryan Musto '16

Sawyer-Kaplan is not the only student to voice his dislike of the Michigan gold. Some hockey players and even students outside hockey and basketball have expressed similar sentiments. Ryan Musto '16 said, "I, for one, am not a big fan of the new, brighter yellow on the hockey jerseys. The old Vegas gold ones had a much more classic and clean look to them."

Each time a change in the school's athletic colors has occurred, the general reaction has been negative; Wild Boars do not often take well to change in their routine. However, back when

the school was ready to order the new jerseys, the general consensus among students and athletes had been positive. Assistant Director of Athletics and head hockey coach Pat Dennehy said about the changing opinions regarding the new jerseys, "It's a pretty consistent cycle."

Coach Dennehy spoke about the goals Choate had in mind with the color change. He commented that the previous changes that occurred during his time at Choate were unorganized and misguided; therefore, the goal of implementing the new gold was to create more organization and a "brand for the school."

The Communications Office and Dr. Curtis have been important players in the push for a unified Choate brand. They held a branding meeting a few years earlier to rethink the logos, fonts, and colors of the school in order to establish a recognizable Choate style. The Communications Office has used the standards created in that meeting to ensure that team gear adheres to the brand of the school. Recently, Communications checked the new team gear for the hockey program to make



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

The Boys' Varsity Hockey team was one of the first teams to make the switch to Michigan gold jerseys, but reviews on the new sweaters have been mixed, to say the least.

sure all of the fonts, colors, and word-marks were acceptable. While hockey is

We'll change the rest of the athletic program to the new colors over the next three years.

Pat Dennehy

Assistant Athletic Director

one of the first programs to reap the fruits of these new

changes, other teams will soon make the change.

"We'll start to change the rest of the athletic program to the new colors over the next three years," Mr. Dennehy commented. Programs like lacrosse will possibly see new jerseys this spring, and basketball is looking at new jerseys next winter. The rest of the teams will follow their three- to four-year cycle, and the goal is to finish all the new branding by the end of the aforementioned

three-year cycle.

As many headaches as these changes may cause for everyone from Dr. Curtis to the students, the final result, a unified yet sometimes frustrating Choate brand, will lead to an outcome that is beneficial to the Choate athletic brand and all athletes involved, and Michigan gold is, by all accounts, here to stay.

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ROOKIE DIVER SETS SCHOOL RECORD



Photo courtesy of Kobe Tray

Kobe Tray '19 set the Choate record for most points scored (286.15) over six dives in his first meet as a Wild Boar.

By **Eben Cook '18**
 Staff Reporter

He's been on campus for fewer than six months, but Cheshire native Kobe Tray '19 has already cemented himself as one of the best divers ever to leap off the boards at Choate Rosemary Hall. In fact, he shattered a school record in his first meet as a Wild Boar. A freshman phenomenon on the diving board, Tray sat down with staff reporter Eben Cook '18 to discuss his aquatic prowess.

Eben Cook '18: In your first meet, you set the 2006 school record for most points scored over six dives, beating the previous record holder, Tyler Makepeace '09, by almost 23 points. How did that feel?

Kobe Tray '19: Breaking the diving record at Choate felt amazing! At first, I couldn't believe I had done it. I even told a few people that they were wrong, but someone showed me Mr. Currie's post on Face-

book, and I realized what they were talking about.

EC: If you could describe diving in one word, what would that word be and why?

KT: Blissful. I love the sport, and feeling like I'm flying is amazing.

EC: When did your diving career begin?

KT: Not long ago. I began diving about four years back. I used to be a gymnast, and then I started to take diving lessons over the summer. After that, I started diving at Wesleyan University and then finally at Yale.

EC: Who inspires you most as a diver?

KT: My teammates and my coaches, definitely. They push me to keep working hard and to make progress as a diver.

EC: What is your typical practice routine?

KT: My typical diving routine begins with a simple

warm-up, which includes sit-ups, exercises with the jump rope, and stretching. Then I go straight to the board and run through whichever dives my coach wants me to practice.

EC: What goes through your mind as you stand on the diving board during a meet?

KT: When standing on the board at a meet, all I try to think about is my form and, more importantly, how the meet is no different than a practice.

Tray dives with a self-assurance and grace that is sure to leave onlookers completely and utterly awestruck. His positive attitude, eagerness to learn, and innate talent set him apart from those that came before him and will certainly come to serve him well in his remaining three and a half years as a Wild Boar diver.

Eben Cook may be reached at ecook18@choate.edu.

OFF THE ICE WITH BRENDAN MURPHY '16

By **Jared Milazzo '16**
 Senior Writer

Captain Brendan Murphy '16 is a crucial asset on the defensive and offensive end of the Boys' Varsity Hockey team. One of the team's most consistent scorers, Murphy uses his speed to fly past defenders and create offense, but he also plays a major role in the defensive end of the ice as well. He challenges himself every practice and competes in every game.

Murphy is a notoriously quick and cerebral player on the ice, and he owes much of his success to his offseason preparation. Brendan Murphy is offseason training personified, constantly striving to eat healthy foods, work out, and improve his skills. Albie Austin '16, Murphy's teammate and a defenseman, said, "Murph approaches everyday ready to work, determined to get better in some way."

Murphy, a fervent lover of hockey, and he stresses the importance of offseason training: "I really do believe in the notion that players are made in the offseason. That's when you have the opportunity to make those improvements to your game—the ones that are going to translate to the field or the court or the ice when the season rolls around."

Murphy is not the tall-

est player, but #13 only uses this knowledge to fuel the fire and make himself work harder. "Obviously I'm not as gifted in genetics as some other guys. I think I more than make up for it by being quick and shifty, though." He added, "The game has changed a lot, and it's not as much as size as it is about speed and smarts, which is an advantage for me."

You have to approach every opportunity to improve with that same passion as you would a championship game.

Brendan Murphy '16

While some dedicated players attend training camps near home, Murphy, the New Jersey native, takes a less orthodox approach in his summer offseason. He stays with his brother in Boston and trains every day with Paul Vincent, who is the skating coach of the Florida Panthers. Murphy also trains with Edge Performance Systems in Foxboro. He remarked, "I train with some of the most elite guys in hockey, and just seeing a guy like John Gaudreau (Calgary Flames All-Star) work out really pushes you to work hard and test your limits."

Perhaps Murphy's best quality as an athlete is his work ethic: "I think the most important thing I've learned about off-season training in the past few years is that you have to approach every opportunity to improve with that same passion, tenacity, and attention to detail as you would approach a championship game. That's when you start to see results, and that's what makes all the difference when it's game time."

He elaborated, "It's all about loving what you do. Anyone that knows me knows that I love nothing more than a game of hockey. The off-season is always a grind, but when December rolls around, it all feels worth it."

Indeed, Murphy has already begun to see the fruits of his labor coming into fruition. "Murph," a 10+ point scorer, and the Wild Boars have taken down revered rivals Loomis Chaffee, Taft, and Berkshire. Despite the team's early struggles, Murphy's strong foundation and impeccable endurance has the team's stock up going into the final stretch of the season. With a pending tilt against Deerfield and the playoffs not far off, the Wild Boar's will count on their pre-season training more and more, and Brendan Murphy will be ready.

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Boys' Hockey	3
Berkshire	1
Girls' Hockey	3
Deerfield	2

VARSITY WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

Archery	228	Swimming (G/B)	95/100
BGC Meriden	178	Miss Porter's/Avon	66/75

Boys' Squash	6
K. Oxford	1

Girls' Squash	6
K. Oxford	1

Boys' Basketball	84
Greens Farms	75
Girls' Basketball	32
Loomis Chaffee	68